

(9) Please rewrite Claim 23 as follows:

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23. (Amended) The e-mail program as recited in Claim 19 wherein said message organizer orders based on said hypertext references and said sender associated with each of said hypertext references.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicant has carefully considered this application in connection with the Examiner's Action and respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

The Applicant originally submitted Claims 1-27 in the application. The Applicant presently amends Claim 1, 2, 5, 10, 11, 14, 19, 20 and 23. Accordingly, Claims 1-27 are currently pending in the application.

I. Rejection of Claims 1-27 under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent No. 6,029,164 to Birrell, *et al.* ("Birrell"). However, Birrell fails to disclose, among other elements, a message parser that locates hypertext references in e-mail messages and associates each of the hypertext references with the sender of the e-mail messages, as recited in Claims 1 and 19. In contrast, Birrell merely discloses parsing e-mail messages into individual words and each word's location is maintained. (Column 7, lines 14-27). Birrell does not disclose associating hypertext references with the sender of the e-mail messages. Birrell merely maintains a list of words and their location within the e-mail message that is used for full-text queries. (Column 9, lines 28-36).

Therefore, Birrell fails to disclose, among other things, a message parser that locates hypertext references in e-mail messages and associates each of the hypertext references with the sender of the e-mail messages, as recited in Claims 1 and 19, and analogous limitations in Claim 10.

Additionally, the Examiner has cited "organizing e-mail messages so that they can readily be located and retrieved" (citing Column 4, lines 16-31) for the premise that Birrell teaches a message organizer that allows e-mail messages to be displayed in an order that is based on the hypertext references. (Examiner's Action, Pages 5-6). The Applicant respectfully disagrees. The cited passage merely states the mail message can be filtered and ordered. The cited passage does not state that the e-mail message can be ordered based on the hypertext references within the e-mail messages. A general statement indicating that the e-mail message can be ordered does not disclose ordering based on items contained within the context of an e-mail message.

Therefore, Birrell fails to disclose each and every element of the claimed invention and as such, is not an anticipating reference for Claims 1, 10 and 19 of the present application. Because Claims 2-9 are dependent upon Claim 1, Birrell also cannot be an anticipating reference for Claims 2-9. Because Claims 11-18 are dependent upon Claim 10, Birrell also cannot be an anticipating reference for Claims 11-18. Because Claims 20-27 are dependent upon Claim 19, Birrell also cannot be an anticipating reference for Claims 20-27. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the §102 rejection with respect to Claims 1-27.

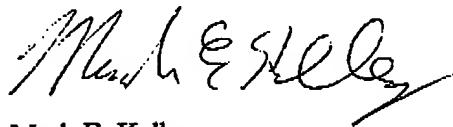
II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the Applicant now sees all of the Claims currently pending in this application to be in condition for allowance and therefore earnestly solicits a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-27.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made." The Applicant requests the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney of record at (972) 480-8800 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

HITT GAINES & BOISBRUN, P.C.



Mark E. Kelley
Registration No. 45,857

Dated:

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P.O. Box 832570
Richardson, Texas 75083
(972) 480-8800
mkelley@abstractassets.com

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PATENT

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADEIN THE CLAIMS:

(1) Please rewrite Claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) For use with an electronic mail (e-mail) program, a system for establishing relationships between hypertext references contained in e-mail messages received by said e-mail program, comprising:

a message parser that locates hypertext references in first and second e-mail messages received by said e-mail program and associates each of said hypertext references with a sender of said first and second e-mail messages; and

a message organizer that allows a user to choose to display said first and second e-mail messages in an order that is based on said hypertext references.

(2) Please rewrite Claim 2 as follows:

2. (Amended) The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said message organizer further causes said e-mail program to display a message field containing said hypertext references and a from field containing said sender associated with each of said hypertext references.

(3) Please rewrite Claim 5 as follows:

5. (Amended) The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said [message parser parses said hypertext references to determine relationships therebetween] message organizer orders based on said hypertext references and said sender associated with each of said hypertext references.

(4) Please rewrite Claim 10 as follows:

10. (Amended) For use with an electronic mail (e-mail) program, a method of establishing relationships between hypertext references contained in e-mail messages received by said e-mail program, comprising:

locating hypertext references in first and second e-mail messages received by said e-mail program and associating each of said hypertext references with a sender of said first and second e-mail messages; and

allowing a user to choose to display said first and second e-mail messages in an order that is based on said hypertext references.

(5) Please rewrite Claim 11 as follows:

11. (Twice Amended) The method as recited in Claim 10 further comprising causing said e-mail program to display a message field containing said hypertext references and a from field containing said sender associated with each of said hypertext references.

(6) Please rewrite Claim 14 as follows:

14. (Amended) The method as recited in Claim 10 [further comprising parsing said hypertext references to determine relationships therebetween] wherein said order is based on said hypertext references and said sender associated with each of said hypertext references.

(7) Please rewrite Claim 19 as follows:

19. (Amended) An electronic mail (e-mail) program, comprising:
a message receiver;
a message transmitter coupled to said message receiver;
a message composer coupled to said message transmitter;
a message store coupled to said message composer; and
a system, associated with said message store, for establishing relationships between hypertext references contained in e-mail messages received by said e-mail program, including:
a message parser that locates hypertext references in first and second e-mail messages received by said e-mail program and associates each of said hypertext references with a sender of said first and second e-mail messages, and
a message organizer that allows a user to choose to display said first and second e-mail messages in an order that is based on said hypertext references.

(8) Please rewrite Claim 20 as follows:

20. (Amended) The e-mail program as recited in Claim 19 wherein said message organizer further causes said e-mail program to display a message field containing said hypertext references and a from field containing said sender associated with each of said hypertext references.

(9) Please rewrite Claim 23 as follows:

23. (Amended) The e-mail program as recited in Claim 19 wherein said [message parser parses said hypertext references to determine relationships therebetween] message organizer orders based on said hypertext references and said sender associated with each of said hypertext references.